

In the Claims

The following is a complete listing of claims and should replace all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A snowboard binding comprising:
 - a base constructed and arranged to be mounted to a snowboard and to support at least a portion of a bottom of a rider's foot, the base having a bottom surface that is adjacent a snowboard top surface when the base is mounted to ~~[[a]]~~ the snowboard;
 - at least one engagement member constructed and arranged to extend across the rider's foot and secure the rider's foot to the base;
 - a heel hoop extending from the base and constructed and arranged to extend around a rider's heel when the rider's foot is positioned in the binding, the heel hoop having an uppermost portion and a rearwardmost portion; and
 - a rear support member, including a highback, constructed and arranged to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the rear support member being movable between a riding position in which the rear support member is arranged to support the rear portion of the rider's leg and a folded position in which all portions of the rear support member are positioned at a height from the bottom surface of the base that is less than a height of an uppermost portion of the heel hoop from the bottom surface of the base.
2. (Original) The binding of claim 1, wherein all portions of the rear support member and the heel hoop are positioned within a height of at most 3 inches from the bottom surface of the base when the rear support member is in the folded position.
3. (Original) The binding of claim 1, wherein all portions of the rear support member and the heel hoop are positioned within a height of at most 2.5 inches from the bottom surface of the base when the rear support member is in the folded position.

4. (Original) The binding of claim 1, wherein the highback is pivotally mounted relative to the base at a position no more than 0.75 inches from the bottom surface of the base and no more than 2.25 inches from the rearwardmost portion of the heel hoop.
5. (Original) The binding of claim 1, further comprising a lean adjuster constructed and arranged to adjust a rotational position of the highback relative to the base.
6. (Previously presented) The binding of claim 33, wherein all portions of the highback and the heel hoop are positioned within a height of at most 2.5 inches from the bottom surface of the base when the highback is in the folded position.
7. (Original) The binding of claim 1, further comprising:
a lean adjustment device that adjusts a rotational position of the highback relative to the base, the lean adjustment device being mounted to the heel hoop and having a movable portion that moves in a direction parallel to the snowboard top surface to adjust the rotational position of the highback.
8. (Original) The binding of claim 1, further comprising:
a lean adjustment device that adjusts a rotational position of the highback relative to the base, a portion of the lean adjustment device being positioned between the highback and an interior surface of the heel hoop.
9. (Original) The binding of claim 1, wherein the base has a toe side opposite a heel side, and the highback is movable from the riding position in a direction toward the toe side of the base to the folded position.
10. (Original) The binding of claim 1, wherein the engagement member is a variable length strap.

11. (Original) The binding of claim 1, further comprising sidewalls on opposite sides of the base and extending in a heel-to-toe direction.

12. (Original) The binding of claim 1, further comprising sidewalls on opposite sides of the base and extending in a heel-to-toe direction, at least one of the sidewalls including a recess to receive at least a portion of the highback when in the folded position.

13. (Original) The binding of claim 1, further comprising:
a first link pivotally coupled at a base end to the base and pivotally coupled at a highback end to the highback, wherein the highback is rotatable relative to the first link.

14. (Original) The binding of claim 13, wherein the first link includes two pivotally connected portions, a first portion being pivotally coupled to the base and a second portion being pivotally coupled to the highback.

15. (Original) The binding of claim 13, wherein at least one engagement member is coupled at one end to the first link.

16. (Original) The binding of claim 1, further comprising:
a first link pivotally coupled at a base end to the base and pivotally coupled at a highback end to the highback; and
a second link pivotally coupled at a base end to the base and pivotally coupled at a highback end to the highback

17. (Original) The binding of claim 16, wherein the first and second links are positioned on a same lateral side of the base, and the first link is positioned nearer a toe side of the base than the second link.

18. (Original) The binding of claim 1, wherein the highback is mounted relative to the base at a position no more than 0.75 inches from the bottom surface of the base and rearward of a rearwardmost portion of a floor of the base.

19. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding comprising:

a base constructed and arranged to be mounted to a snowboard and to support at least a portion of a bottom of a rider's foot, the base having a bottom surface that is adjacent a snowboard top surface when the base is mounted to a snowboard;

at least one engagement member constructed and arranged to extend across a rider's foot and to secure the rider's foot to the base;

a heel hoop extending from the base and constructed and arranged to extend around a rider's boot heel when the boot is positioned in the binding, the heel hoop having a rearwardmost portion; and

a highback constructed and arranged to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the highback pivotally connected relative to the base at a pivot position ~~having a height of no more than about 0.75 inches above the bottom surface of the base and~~ that is located no more than about 2.25 inches forward of the rearwardmost portion of the heel hoop and rearward of a rearwardmost portion of a floor of the base.

20. (Original) The binding of claim 19, wherein the highback is movable between a riding position and a folded position, and all portions of the highback and heel hoop are positioned within a height of at most 3 inches from the bottom surface of the base when the highback is in the folded position.

21. (Original) The binding of claim 19, wherein the highback is movable between a riding position and a folded position, and all portions of the highback and heel hoop are positioned within a height of at most 2.5 inches from the bottom surface of the base when the highback is in the folded position.

22. (Original) The binding of claim 19, further comprising a lean adjuster constructed and arranged to adjust a rotational position of the highback relative to the base.

23. (Original) The binding of claim 19, further comprising:
a lean adjustment device that adjusts a rotational position of the highback relative to the base, the lean adjustment device being mounted to the heel hoop and having a movable portion that moves in a direction parallel to the snowboard top surface to adjust the rotational position of the highback.

24. (Original) The binding of claim 19, further comprising:
a lean adjustment device that adjusts a rotational position of the highback relative to the base, a portion of the lean adjustment device being positioned between the highback and an interior surface of the heel hoop.

25. (Original) The binding of claim 19, wherein the highback is movable between a riding position and a folded position, the binding further comprising:
a lean adjustment device that adjusts a rotational position of the highback relative to the base, a portion of the lean adjustment device being coupled to the heel hoop and a portion of the lean adjustment device being coupled to the highback, wherein the highback includes an opening in which a portion of the lean adjustment device is received when the highback is in the folded position.

26. (Original) The binding of claim 19, wherein the highback is movable between a riding position and a folded position, the base has a toe side opposite a heel side, and the highback is movable from the riding position in a direction toward the toe side of the base to the folded position.

27. (Original) The binding of claim 19, wherein the engagement member is a variable length strap constructed and arranged to engage with a rider's boot.

28. (Original) The binding of claim 19, further comprising sidewalls on opposite sides of the base and extending in a heel-to-toe direction, at least one of the sidewalls including a recess to receive at least a portion of the highback when in the folded position.

29. (Original) The binding of claim 19, further comprising:
a first link pivotally coupled at a base end to the base and pivotally coupled at a highback end to the highback, wherein the highback is rotatable relative to the first link.

30. (Original) The binding of claim 29, wherein the first link includes two pivotally connected portions, a first portion being pivotally coupled to the base and a second portion being pivotally coupled to the highback.

31. (Original) The binding of claim 30, wherein the engagement member is coupled at one end to the first link.

32. (Currently amended) The binding of claim 19~~1~~, wherein the highback is pivotally mounted to the heel hoop at a pivot position that is located rearward of a rearwardmost portion of a floor of the base.

33. (Previously presented) A snowboard binding comprising:
a base constructed and arranged to be mounted to a snowboard and to support at least a portion of a rider's foot, the base having a bottom surface that is adjacent a snowboard top surface when the base is mounted to a snowboard;
a pair of sidewalls extending in a heel-to-toe direction on opposite sides of the base;
at least one engagement member constructed and arranged to extend across a rider's foot and secure the rider's foot to the base;
a heel hoop extending from the base and constructed and arranged to extend around a rider's boot heel when the boot is positioned in the binding, the heel hoop having a rearwardmost portion;
and

a highback constructed and arranged to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the highback pivotally connected relative to the binding, the highback being movable between a riding position in which the highback is arranged to support a rear portion of the rider's leg and a folded position in which the highback is folded toward a toe side of the base;

wherein all portions of the highback and heel hoop are positioned within a distance of at most 3 inches from the bottom surface of the base when the highback is in the folded position.

34. (Previously presented) The binding of claim 33, wherein all portions of the highback and heel hoop are positioned within a distance of at most 2.75 inches from the bottom surface of the base when the highback is in the folded position.

35. (Previously presented) The binding of claim 33, wherein the highback is pivotally mounted to the heel hoop at a position no more than about 2.25 inches from the rearwardmost portion of the heel hoop.

36. (Original) The binding of claim 33, further comprising:
a lean adjuster constructed and arranged to adjust a rotational position of the highback relative to the base.

37. (Original) The binding of claim 33, further comprising:
a lean adjustment device that adjusts a rotational position of the highback relative to the base, the lean adjustment device being mounted to the heel hoop and having a movable portion that moves in a direction parallel to the snowboard top surface to adjust the rotational position of the highback.

38. (Original) The binding of claim 33, further comprising:
a lean adjustment device that adjusts a rotational position of the highback relative to the base, a portion of the lean adjustment device being positioned between the highback and an interior surface of the heel hoop.

39. (Original) The binding of claim 33, wherein at least one of the sidewalls includes a recess to receive at least a portion of the highback when in the folded position.

40. (Original) The binding of claim 33, further comprising:
a first link pivotally coupled at a base end to the base and pivotally coupled at a highback end to the highback, wherein the highback is rotatable relative to the first link.

41. (Original) The binding of claim 40, wherein the first link includes two pivotally connected portions, a first portion being pivotally coupled to the base and a second portion being pivotally coupled to the highback.

42. (Original) The binding of claim 41, wherein the engagement member is coupled at one end to the first link.

43. (Currently amended) ~~The binding of claim 33,~~ A snowboard binding comprising:
a base constructed and arranged to be mounted to a snowboard and to support at least a portion of a rider's foot, the base having a bottom surface that is adjacent a snowboard top surface when the base is mounted to a snowboard;
a pair of sidewalls extending in a heel-to-toe direction on opposite sides of the base;
at least one engagement member constructed and arranged to extend across a rider's foot and secure the rider's foot to the base;
a heel hoop extending from the base and constructed and arranged to extend around a rider's boot heel when the boot is positioned in the binding, the heel hoop having a rearwardmost portion;
and
a highback constructed and arranged to support a rear portion of the rider's leg, the highback pivotally connected relative to the binding, the highback being movable between a riding position in which the highback is arranged to support a rear portion of the rider's leg and a folded position in which the highback is folded toward a toe side of the base;

wherein all portions of the highback and heel hoop are positioned within a distance of at most 3 inches from the bottom surface of the base when the highback is in the folded position, and wherein the highback is mounted relative to the base at a position rearward of a rearwardmost portion of a floor of the base.

44. (New) The binding of claim 1, wherein a top portion of the highback does not extend beyond a toe end of the base when the highback is in the folded position.

45. (New) The binding of claim 19, wherein a top portion of the highback does not extend beyond a toe end of the base when the highback is in the folded position.

46. (New) The binding of claim 33, wherein a top portion of the highback does not extend beyond a toe end of the base when the highback is in the folded position.